

**Proposed Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease
(Sale 97)**

Public Hearings

Nuiqsut

1986

CLIENT'S COPY

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR
THE PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 97
IN THE BEAUFORT SEA
NUIQSUT ,ALASKA
DECEMBER 12, 1986

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 276-0511

PROCEEDINGS

NUIQSUT, ALASKA

DECEMBER 11, 1986

MR. BROCK: Good evening. I would certainly like to welcome you to the public hearing on the Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale 97 in the Beaufort Sea. Do we have need for a translator?

MR. AHVAKANA: We have one person that don't understand.

MR. BROCK: That's fine. I just wanted to know if everyone understood me. Emily is our translator and she will be helping us out on this.

My name is Bob Brock and I'm the Regional Supervisor for the Leasing and Environment Office of the Alaska OCS Region of the Minerals Management Service and I'm the designated chair for this hearing.

(TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

On my right is Mr. Leroy Stringfellow from the Field Operations Office of the Minerals Management Service in Anchorage, and they are the people that actually do the rig inspections and enforce the stipulations and that sort of thing after the lease has been let and the activities start. And on my left, I don't think anybody knows him, is John Schindler, the Chief of the Environment Assessment Section in the Regional Office of the MMS.

(TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 And Dick Roberts sitting over here is with our office also
2 and on the far left is Angie Hecker, who is with Accu-Type
3 Depositions and is the Court Reporter. Accu-Type is located in
4 Anchorage and their telephone number is 276-0544. If you want a
5 copy of this transcript you can arrange to get one from her because
6 Minerals Management Service does not publish them or put them out
7 as a transcript. But you can arrange to get one from her.

8 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

9 The purpose of this hearing is to receive the views,
10 comments and suggestions of interested individuals and
11 representatives of local government and organizations on the Draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement. These hearings are being held for
13 the purpose of receiving comments and suggestions about subsistence
14 per Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
15 Act.

16 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

17 Now, let me go over here to the map for a minute. Just to
18 show you where we are, this is Wainwright, Barrow, Nuiqsut,
19 Kaktovik and the Canadian line. And this is the shoreline. The
20 first three miles from the shoreline out three miles is state-owned
21 area. The federal offshore starts at the three-mile point and goes
22 seaward. So, the first three miles is state and then the federal
23 starts at the three-mile line and goes seaward.

24 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

25 Federal oil and gas leasing in the Beaufort Sea began with

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 the joint state and federal BF Sale in December, 1979. That was
2 this area right here.

3 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

4 Now, each one of these blocks is three miles. It's three
5 miles from this point to this point. Here's one block, for
6 example, right there, that's three miles on a side. The dark
7 colored blocks were those leases that were sold in 1982, Sale 71.

8 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

9 The light-shaded blocks were the leases sold in 1984 in
10 Sale 87.

11 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

12 This sale that we're talking about now is covering the
13 area shoreward of this line, which is about the 400 meter line or
14 1,200 foot depth of water. It's just about this line right here,
15 shoreward, up to the three mile line.

16 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

17 The entire map area contains about 49 million acres, but
18 this proposal, this particular EIS, covers about 21 million acres.

19 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement has set up some
20 possible deferrals or areas that would be postponed. When we came
21 up here a year ago, there were concerns about this area around
22 Barrow. There were concerns about this area around Kaktovik.
23 There were concerns about this entire area out here. So, in the
24 EIS we set up three possible deferral alternatives just so that the
25 Secretary could look at these and possibly, I'm not saying he will,

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 I'm just saying that possibly he could defer those to another sale
2 later on.

3 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

4 We have a lot of requirements, for example, regulations,
5 that are in place right now that the oil companies have to follow
6 if they get an oil lease out in that area.

7 To begin with, a large number of federal laws control
8 offshore operations. Some examples include the OCS Lands Act, the
9 National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the
10 Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Coastal
11 Zone Management Act.

12 If a sale is held and leases are awarded, lessees cannot
13 just start drilling. There are many federal and state requirements
14 in place to ensure that exploration, drilling and production
15 proceed in an environmentally safe and acceptable manner.

16 First, before exploration can begin, Lessees have to
17 prepare exploration plans. Lessees must prepare large numbers of
18 these plans for very broad distribution and review before approval
19 of the federal government. But even our approval is not the final
20 word. The State's Coastal Zone Consistency Certification is also
21 necessary.

22 Next, a drilling permit is required. Once drilling is
23 underway, an MMS inspector will be either on the rig or will be
24 nearby at all times.

25 Then, if a discovery is made, the planning and approval

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 process starts all over again and we must prepare another
2 environmental analysis before development and production can take
3 place.

4 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

5 In addition to that, some of the mitigating measures, some
6 of the additional requirements that we are considering putting on
7 the leases, what we call stipulations or mitigating measures and
8 that have been on other lease sales are a requirement for the
9 companies to establish a training program which would require
10 everybody who works on a rig to attend at least once a year. One
11 of the main purposes of that program is to educate the oil and gas
12 workers about the subsistence practices of the local people.

13 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

14 Another example of a mitigating measure that we study in
15 the EIS is the seasonal drilling restriction that does not permit
16 drilling during the fall migration of the bowhead whale.

17 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

18 With that, we will start asking you to present your views
19 on this. When you are asked to speak, please say your name and
20 spell it if you would, please, because we sometimes don't hear them
21 correctly, and state where you live and if you are representing
22 somebody. I assume that most of you will be representing
23 yourselves so mostly it's a matter of getting your name spelled
24 correctly for the record.

25 The comment period for this EIS closes on January 6,

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 1987. Until that time, MMS will also accept written comments and
2 statements from anyone who would prefer to make written rather than
3 oral comments, from anyone wishing to supplement their oral
4 comments, or from anybody who is unable to attend the hearing.
5 These written comments should be addressed to the Regional
6 Director, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue,
7 Room 110, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508, Attention: Dick Roberts.

8 The comment closes January 6, 1987. All written comments
9 received prior to that date, January 6, 1987, will be included as a
10 part of the hearing record.

11 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

12 MR. BROCK: I think I'll start off
13 by asking James to present the same testimony that he presented in
14 Barrow the other night as far as the North Slope Borough's position
15 and then you can take it from there. So, Jim, would you please go
16 through that?

17 MR. SAVOK: Thank you. I think
18 that all of you probably have a copy of the written comments that
19 the North Slope Borough has made on Sale 97 so instead of reading
20 the comments verbatim, we have enough copies there for all of you,
21 I'd just as soon walk over here to the map and give you an overview
22 of what the North Slope Borough's comments were.

23 The North Slope Borough is saying that they don't have any
24 problem with the MMS leasing all of this area. The only problems
25 that the North Slope Borough would like to address is the EIS, in

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 that big book, there's two alternatives.

2 Alternative IV is the Barrow deferral. That's this one
3 that's shaded in here. That's called the Barrow Deferral and
4 that's outside the three-mile limit and out a ways. The other one
5 is Alternative V and that's this area here, the Kaktovik
6 Deferral. That's also three miles and outside. It's all within
7 the federal lease sale.

8 The reason for requesting the deferral of this for a
9 period of not less than five years and preferably more is to allow
10 the federal government to make more studies in this area. Also,
11 the biggest concern is that the ice in here is pretty heavy and
12 we're only going to have a real narrow open lead during the
13 springtime for the whale migration. So, the utilization of this
14 space is going to create too much of a stress on the bowhead whale
15 during migration if there is any activity in there, be it seismic
16 activity or drilling activity or anything like this. There would
17 be too much stress for that little open lead on the whale.

18 We're also concerned about spills in this area so we would
19 have to have more studies made on that. Here you can see by some
20 of these blocks that have already been leased, we're still
21 concerned. We would still like MMS to defer leasing in this area
22 because the people in the Kaktovik and also the whalers there and
23 the whalers and the residents of the North Slope Borough are
24 concerned because of the feeding habitat in here for the bowhead
25 whale. We feel that this area needs to be deferred until the

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 federal government comes up with the evaluation of their studies
2 for feeding areas here for the whale because people there know that
3 this area contains feeding areas for the bowhead whale and there
4 have been some studies that have been made and there are still
5 ongoing studies on the feeding habitat and the feeding areas of the
6 bowhead whale in here and we would like to defer leasing in that
7 area until all those studies are complete.

8 The other area was an alternative here called the Chukchi
9 Alternative. I've forgotten what the number of that was. The
10 North Slope Borough is concerned about this area, but not as
11 intensively as the new shore activity because this is further,
12 offshore. But still the North Slope Borough feels that there are
13 no studies that have been done out here. There's no data base or
14 anything to make good decisions on what is out here, you know, the
15 sea mammals, the fish and the habitat for all these animals out
16 here.

17 Plus, we're also concerned that the sea ice movements up
18 here are much greater than they are here in the Beaufort Sea.
19 We're certain that if development is allowed in this area they're
20 going to have to do a heck of a lot more studies on the sea ice
21 movements and how the equipment they're going to be using out there
22 to be doing drilling work or anything like that is going to be
23 affected by the sea ice so we're asking for that.

24 Then the last alternative is to ask the federal government
25 to create one more alternative, which would be Alternative VII, and

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 that's to combine these two areas within this lease sale and
2 combine the deferral of these two areas. But the comments that are
3 written here are surface type comments or comments that we could
4 express right away.

5 There are a lot of other comments that the North Slope
6 Borough is going to be making in detail by January 6th and we will
7 be submitting them to the federal government, the Minerals
8 Management Service.

9 So, that basically covers the concerns that concerns that
10 the North Slope Borough has. Thank you.

11 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

12 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Mayor,
13 would you like to make any comments?

14 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Yes. We've had
15 hearings and we put our comments in --

16 MR. BROCK: Would you like to come
17 a little closer? We can't pick you up.

18 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Okay. We were
19 here for the hearing and we did put some of our comments in. We
20 also got in contact with the Alaska Whaling Commission. At the
21 time our whalers were unable to be here so we stood up right behind
22 them concerning -- because subsistence for them down there, it's
23 very important to them and to all of us.

24 We were so concerned when we heard that they would like
25 50% of the whales to pass and then they will start continuing their

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 drilling. We wanted the Whaling Commission to know we were very
2 concerned to put it up at least to 75% if not higher because it's a
3 very critical time of the year for our whalers to be down there
4 risking their lives and the weather conditions and the ice
5 movement.

6 We weren't too sure if they were aware of how bad the ice
7 movement is happening down there. I think they had to go all the
8 way to the islands down there to do their whaling, to camp out and
9 then go out from there. So, when we had heard that they had put
10 50% for the whale migration to go by, we were very concerned. So,
11 we called Ronald Nalikat, he was representing the Alaska Whaling
12 Commission at that time, to write in the concern of the people here
13 and also the whalers to put it up to at least 75% or higher.

14 So, I think it would be better, some of our whaling
15 captains are here, I can see, and if they'd like to make a comment
16 tonight, like I said, it's so important for our subsistence down
17 here and, you know, it's hard getting it. But the people, the
18 whalers, do go down there and try to get them.

19 And they were also concerned about the noise, how it
20 affects the whale at the time that it's going by there if they
21 continue to do their exploring. So, they were very concerned about
22 that and that's why they thought -- while they're out there for the
23 exploring to stop until at least they got a whale or their quota of
24 whales.

25 But I have every council member here. If they would like

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 to get up and speak, they'll be more than welcome, but that's the
2 one thing I wanted to bring up.

3 MR. BROCK: Very good, thank you.

4 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

5 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Who would
6 like to be next? Oh, yes, Ron Nalikak did testify in Barrow.

7 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Yes. He asked me
8 to testify on behalf of our whalers. I think they would have more
9 input on this because it's that area that they do their subsistence
10 whaling.

11 MR. BROCK: He did testify so
12 that's... Who would like to be next? Very good.

13 MR. AHMAKAK: My name is Mark
14 Ahmakak and I'd like to speak as an individual from the community.

15 MR. BROCK: Could you spell your
16 name, please, sir?

17 MR. AHMAKAK: A-H-M-A-K-A-K. I'm
18 quite concerned about the stipulations that have been quoted in
19 some past EIS studies. Just recently, a judge had ruled against
20 the suit of the North Slope Borough. It was one of the mitigating
21 measures that was put forth by the North Slope Borough and the
22 judge disagreed with that mitigation in which all drilling
23 activities would have ceased by the fall season on the migratory
24 routes and the time schedules of the whales when they passed by the
25 Canadian side extending over to the Chukchi Sea.

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
19071 276-0544

1 I'm also aware that would have a tremendous impact. If
2 the oil companies do obtain some of these leases, they will not
3 obey, they will not listen to the North Slope Borough's position on
4 account of a federal judge or whoever at that time ruled against
5 the mitigating measures.

6 That would severely impact on our side, anyway, for the
7 community of Nuiqsut if we were going out whaling according to our
8 fall whaling quotas. We have seen a lot of traffic there as some
9 of the whaling captains are aware and that injunction, if the North
10 Slope Borough is not successful again in pursuing that mitigating
11 measure which they had relied upon, then the Nuiqsut Village
12 Whaling Association will have a tough time reading the quota. It
13 will decrease activity, at least with the islands that we normally
14 would go to.

15 I'm sure that the Nuiqsut Whaling Association has
16 something to say about that. I've got that comment for now.

17 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

18 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

19 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Who is
20 next?

21 MR. OYAGAK: I'm Billy Oyagak.

22 MR. BROCK: Could you spell that
23 for us, please, sir?

24 MR. OYAGAK: O-Y-A-G-A-K.

25 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
10071 276-0544

1 MR. OYAGAK: Last fall we had
2 interference with the choppers and some of the ships. We were
3 located on Cross Island and we could go all the way down to Flaxman
4 Island. And they told us that they were going to operate on Corona
5 only and they didn't tell us that they were going to reopen
6 Hammerhead. Instead of going their route, the last part of
7 September they started going through the islands with choppers and
8 some of those supply ships weren't supposed to be where we were
9 hunting whales and some of them just went straight out after they
10 said we wouldn't have any interference from oilers, choppers and
11 supply ships.

12 And since they opened up the Amerith (ph), we didn't have
13 any whales for a week or two because we found out that they were
14 just going back out to Captain. And finally in October we finally
15 saw some and struck. We stayed out there in that island one month
16 and a week instead of coming home. That's how we whale from here
17 and it's pretty hard.

18 I'd like to see you guys do something about that next time
19 they start drilling or they've got a seismic going on in these
20 places. Thank you.

21 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

22 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

23 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Who would
24 like to be next?

25 MR. AHVAKANA: Are you ready to

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 stay all night?

2 MR. SCHINDLER: Don't let him
3 talk.

4 (LAUGHTER)

5 MR. AHVAKANA: I'm Nelson
6 Ahvakana, A-H-V-A-K-A-N-A. First of all, I would like to ask a
7 question to dispute, and that question is, how long ago was this
8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement made available? The reason
9 why I'm asking that is that this village, in talking with the
10 mayor, it received its copy about a couple of weeks ago and because
11 of that another question would be raised and that would be, how
12 soon do you suppose that a person with a limited education would be
13 able to understand fully as to the status of that Draft
14 Environmental Impact Statement that is presented before us?

15 The people of Nuiqsut, especially the North Slope, a lot
16 of us are very, very limited as far as education is concerned and
17 to have something like this and to try and cope with the words that
18 are being used and at the same time requested to participate in
19 giving testimony as to the effectiveness of that Environmental
20 Impact Statement, is kind of -- I don't know what the terminology
21 would be to use, but I believe that all of you would understand
22 what I'm saying.

23 The presentation of Sale 97 on the map here indicated two
24 deferrals. Now, another question that occurred that I would raise
25 is why didn't the Minerals Management Services include a deferral

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 for the village of Nuiqsut? As stated earlier during the beginning
2 of the session, I was made to believe that the Minerals Management
3 Services personnel are here primarily to hear the subsistence
4 problems of this village. If this is the case, then this village
5 of Nuiqsut is being relieved from the problems that I see
6 presented.

7 The North Slope Borough indicated that those two
8 deferrals, one at Kaktovik and one at Barrow, should be deferred up
9 to five years so that additional study could be made. I believe
10 that this is also true in light of the village of Nuiqsut.

11 It's true that only just a handful of people would
12 whale. That's the understanding that our Caucasian brothers have,
13 anyway. But the philosophy behind this is that the whole village
14 is involved when there is a whaling season opened within this
15 village. It's not just the whalers that are out for a period of a
16 month and a half or so and living off the land and trying to
17 provide the quota that was established for this village.

18 With all due respect to the management of minerals service
19 or whatever your name is, I would say that these things here should
20 be looked into.

21 And another thing that I would like to say, if it could be
22 done, but it's very, very hard to persuade the federal government,
23 especially if you're only one ethnic minority group, because they
24 don't listen to one ethnic minority group. They listen to the
25 whole body of people even though each and every one of us have been

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 born and raised under the United States flag and we have those
2 constitutional rights which initially protects the individuals.

3 I don't see any protection for the village of Nuigsut to
4 be -- except for the Natives of the North Slope.

5 It's very true that our brothers down in the Lower 48, at
6 the time when the federal government were first in the process of
7 taking over the land, those Indians indicated that the white man
8 speaks with forked tongue. This saying was primarily the education
9 factor for ourselves because we ourselves have never indicated that
10 before. There were other namecallings and everything that we may
11 have used, but I think it's becoming apparent that our government
12 is forever trying to complicate things for us.

13 Ever since the enactment of the Land Claims in 1971, they
14 indicated that the Natives had sold their right. I think this is
15 becoming a reality because you have to remember that the Natives
16 didn't write that law, the Congress did, and the people that work
17 for the government are the only ones that basically benefited from
18 this because they are sitting back and relaxing and enjoying life
19 because they have fought the good fight.

20 They have won the battle, won the war, and now they're
21 going to try to get the crop, if I'm able to say that. I don't
22 know what I'm saying, but that's basically what they're doing.
23 They're reaping the crop right now because we...

24 It has never been considered, I believe, when the
25 Environmental Impact Statement is being written, to supposedly to

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
10071 276 0544

1 protect the environment. They talk about the water fowl, they talk
2 about the migration of whales, they talk about the fish, they talk
3 about the caribou, but I have never heard anybody mention anything
4 about the Inupiat. This is for your protection. I have never
5 heard that.

6 Even though it was said many, many times that we're very,
7 very concerned about the subsistence of this area. This
8 subsistence is for your own good, but what good is that if the
9 federal government or the State of Alaska is utilizing just the
10 words with no meeting whatsoever and allow the Natives to suffer.

11 I think we need to see that, the subsistence of this area,
12 within Nuiqsut, that it stays open to us. It presently is down to
13 the ocean area. That's the only area that's been open presently
14 right now. We're allowed to subside within our area here, but
15 there's reclamations that are foreign to us, especially to a person
16 that has no education whatsoever, to find out that he is breaking
17 the law because some John Henry over there has made that law for
18 him.

19 Now, this Sale 97, according to what the North Slope
20 Borough has said, is that they're for it. I believe that our
21 government, the North Slope Borough, if they're saying that, then
22 they're saying it for us. Therefore, what could I say then? If
23 they're agreeing to this sale, I believe that even if this village
24 would oppose to that sale, what good will that do?

25 Usually everything that happens within this village, and

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 when people come from the other areas that have some presentation,
2 they usually come when things are in motion already and they say
3 that we want you to know this because it's going to happen and it's
4 happening already. I don't think this is fair.

5 I think we need to utilize what we have for the protection
6 of ourselves, that we, as Inupriats. Within the North Slope, there
7 are only 4,000 Inupriats. That's not much in comparison to the
8 national interest of the United States. Who are they, just a
9 handful of people anyway. The sale that the federal government is
10 receiving on Sale 97, what benefit would that be to us?

11 Sure, they're going to say, you're going to have jobs
12 available, but the availability of jobs, according to what was said
13 earlier, was that those people will have to be skilled craftsmen
14 and if there are going to be skilled, show me in this village of
15 Nuiqsut that these people that are skilled. I don't think that
16 you'll find any.

17 They have their expertise, yes. They have the know-how,
18 but they don't have that certification which initially is the key
19 to everything. So, we are here listening, once again, to the
20 presentation here that is given to us and the availability of us,
21 ourselves, to respond to this Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
22 which I just recently saw a couple of hours ago when I came and I'm
23 supposed to be responding to that.

24 How am I supposed to respond to something that I don't
25 know about? It's like I, myself, am requesting you to respond to

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 me in Inupiat. I don't believe that you could either. This is how
2 I feel.

3 So, in order for this village to be heard, what do we need
4 to do? We've reported time after time what we wanted the federal
5 government or the State of Alaska to hear, but nothing materialized
6 from all that. I believe that our people are becoming kind of
7 restless and they're becoming useless to themselves because what
8 good does it do anything? This is how our people are feeling
9 themselves. What good does all this do if I present myself in
10 front of this public hearing and expand on my knowledge because I'm
11 only one individual anyway. What good would that do for this,
12 village?

13 I hope that what you hear will be utilized, not just here
14 but in other villages as well, and it is very, very important for
15 this village to be concerned and to let those people understand
16 their concern. I, myself, being here for only five years, have
17 come to love this village. I am a resident of this village and I
18 hope to be able to be here for a long time.

19 But if we are going to be utilized as iniviks (ph), this
20 is not the terminology that the Inupiat would use, but that's
21 basically what we are. We're iniviks when it comes to the
22 industry, when it comes to the lease sale. I hope that this time
23 this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, that these deferrals,
24 that you would also include the area that the village of Nuiqsut
25 utilizes for the whaling, that it could be included in the deferral

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 so that additional studies could be made in that area.

2 (MR. AHVAKANA TRANSLATES HIS TESTIMONY)

3 MR. BROCK: Any other comments?

4 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Could I ask a
5 question?

6 MR. BROCK: Well, I was going to
7 wait until after the hearing for some questions. Well, why don't
8 we go off the record right now and we'll take some questions that
9 you might have.

10 (OFF THE RECORD)

11 (ON THE RECORD)

12 MS. HOPSON: (SPEAKS IN INUPIAT)

13 TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON: Her
14 name is Teresa Hopson and she is very proud to be an American and
15 it's one of her highest priorities. She has many concerns and
16 comments have been collected until no comments are left, until
17 there are no more comments.

18 She didn't have any more respect for the people who come
19 here to hear comments, but she knows that it is important to hear
20 these comments also.

21 The damage is done to the subsistence resources and stuff
22 like that even though they have commented and they would do
23 something, but these are not carried through and these are one of
24 her main concerns.

25 Although we understand our livelihood in our own area,

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 with this meeting, what good will it be? What can you do to help
2 us? And this is one of her main concerns.

3 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Any other
4 comments for the record?

5 MR. TUCKLE: (SPEAKS IN INUPIAT)
6 His name is Patsy Tuckle, T-U-K-L-E, and he is one of the captains,
7 whaling captains. He would like to make comments along with Teresa
8 Hopson's. After making several comments in the past, they had no
9 results, what's happening. After making comments, they still don't
10 hear and the drilling is still going on even with comments or no
11 comments.

12 He is aware that the whales are going around the area.
13 They are not seen as they used to be any more. Helicopters are
14 interfering and also ships are. After commenting that the
15 helicopters would go by land, they still don't do that. The ships
16 are still going through the migration route.

17 All these activities are still going on. Even the ships
18 are coming toward them when they are out whaling and after they
19 said that they wouldn't interfere with their whaling.

20 These are his main concerns as a whaling captain and he
21 says that the whaling would be going on in the future and after the
22 children learn it will be going on for years and this has to be
23 considered.

24 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

25 MS. WILSON: Well, he mentioned

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 something about -- I skipped a line here. He said that they've
2 been lied to and it shows that the ships are still going through
3 the migration and he would like that this be known.

4 MR. TUCKLE: (SPEAKS IN INUPIAT)

5 TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON: They
6 have noted that when the whales, when they are on migration, they
7 stop when the winds are very slow, you know, when the weather is
8 nice, then they don't migrate. But when the winds start is when
9 they actually start going through Captain Bay on towards Cross
10 Island and this is what they have noted.

11 For two years, this is what they have seen.

12 MR. SCHINDLER: That's
13 interesting. And was Captain Bay the point where --

14 MS. WILSON: Yes, around that
15 area. When it becomes very windy is when they start traveling and
16 then they kind of stop when the weather is nice.

17 MR. SCHINDLER: They have a
18 picnic.

19 MR. BROCK: Thank you, any other
20 comments?

21 MR. AHMAKOK: I have one last
22 comment. I will immediately make it known that the deferral for
23 the Nuiqsut area, I will expect your department to review a letter
24 or some kind of answer for the City Council and mayor as we will
25 probably request for the deferral on some specific numbers that are

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 referred for deferral due to the fact that some of that ocean is
2 used for our subsistence hunting areas of the sea mammals.

3 I do not foresee any problems. It is a formal request,
4 both to the North Slope Borough and the City of Nuiqsut, that we
5 will put our two cents worth into it and we need to ask for
6 January 6th and also your department will receive copies of
7 whatever comments are picked up from the community. Thank you.

8 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Your name,
9 please, sir?

10 MR. AHMAKOK: Mark Ahmakok.

11 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

12 MR. BROCK: Mayor, did you --

13 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Yes. That's what
14 I was going to say, I wanted to request that there is a possibility
15 of deleting that area where we do our whaling. We would like to
16 put it on the map. I think that we have just been overlooked
17 because in the past that was our wish. If they were going to
18 delete the Barrow area and Kaktovik, we wanted our area where we
19 were whaling also deleted and somehow a miscommunication has
20 happened.

21 But I can recall a lot of the testimonies, all of the
22 time, when it was time for us to speak our concern. That was the
23 concern. They never did enough studying on our whales so they had
24 better put it off also for another five years or however long that
25 Kaktovik and Barrow areas are doing.

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 MR. BROCK: Do you want to write a
2 letter on that or do you want us --

3 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Yes.

4 MR. BROCK: And be sure to attach
5 a map, would you please, --

6 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Yes.

7 MR. BROCK: -- so we can see what
8 area you're talking about for sure?

9 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Okay.

10 MR. BROCK: Thank you. And be
11 sure it gets in before January 6th.

12 MAYOR KOWALSKI: Yes, we will do
13 that tomorrow. We will get it out as soon as we possibly could so
14 I think we will get it out tomorrow.

15 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Any other
16 comments? Yes, ma'am?

17 MS. AHMUPKANA: (SPEAKS IN
18 INUPTIAT)

19 TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON: My
20 name is Margie Ahmupkana and I would like to back up Teresa
21 Hopson's comments. She was here as a little girl in this area in
22 1949 and then moved to Barrow and during that time there were no
23 stipulations to this area. And then she moved back to Nuigsut in
24 1973.

25 With stipulations around it is very hard and oil and gas

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544

1 is surrounding Nuiqsut and the pipeline is going through and we
2 still have no gas yet for the City of Nuiqsut.

3 She commented that we are moving backwards here with oil
4 and gas surrounding us. We are going back to wood and stuff like
5 that. It is very hard to live in this kind of situation.

6 And she commented that the comments that they have said
7 are put in and fixed up because she hears words all the time and I
8 guess that she thinks that they are fixed up and put in these
9 papers and stuff like that.

10 And living here in Nuiqsut is getting harder and harder
11 with this oil and gas surrounding us and drilling all around
12 Nuiqsut. She mentioned that it is getting harder.

13 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Any other
14 comments? (PAUSE) If not, we will close the hearing at this point
15 and we do appreciate your efforts in coming out and we will make
16 sure these get in.

17 (TRANSLATION BY MS. WILSON)

18 (OFF THE RECORD)

19 * * * END OF PROCEEDINGS * * *

20

21

22

23

24

25

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 276-0544

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
STATE OF ALASKA) ss.
)

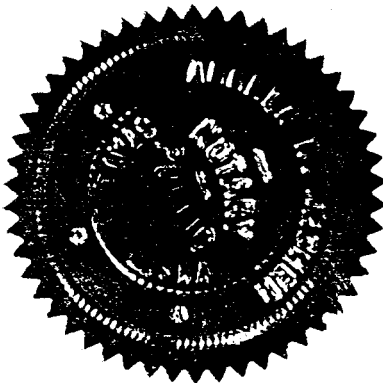
I, Angela K. Hecker, Court Reporter for Accu-Type
Depositions, state of Alaska, hereby certify:

That the foregoing pages numbered 3 through 27 contain a
full, true and correct transcript of proceedings in the matter of
the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Oil and
Gas Lease Sale 97 in the Beaufort Sea as transcribed by me to the
best of my knowledge and ability from reel to reel tape identified
as follows:

Tape No. 881, Log Nos 398-940.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th day of January,
1987.

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED TO BY:



Angela K. Hecker
Angela K. Hecker
Court Reporter

Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.

550 West Seventh, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-0544